

NAME OF GROUP: Urban Design Committee

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, October 3, 2001, 3:00 p.m., Room 206, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Michael Eckert, JoAnne Kissel and Dennis Scheer.

Others: Greg Ferris and Ken Weber on behalf of Cricket. Brian Will, Ed Zimmer and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Department.

Review of Cricket wireless communication tower at Kahoa School (upon request of LPS). Greg Ferris is a consultant for Cricket. He explained that they are trying to get the Cricket wireless system up and running. Cricket is a newcomer to the wireless business. They are in 35 cities. They are interested in having your phone work in your house also. They will need more towers than normal. This is an 80' monopole with flush mounted antennas. He presented some drawings. The brick wall will be the same design and texture as the building. There will be landscaping. They believe their pole will be a lower profile. There are some existing trees. The compound blends very well with the school. This is a shorter monopole. It will have room for another carrier underneath with flush mounted antennas. Issues at the neighborhood meeting were aesthetics and security. Kids won't be able to access a brick wall with a metal gate.

Kissel wondered how close this is to the playground. Mr. Ferris believes it is about 40 to 50 feet away. There is no direct access to the playground from this site.

Kissel believes this is a sleeker pole than what is normally seen. Ed Zimmer agreed. There is no large platform with an antenna array. Mr. Ferris noted that an array sticks out about 8 feet, this will stick out about 6 inches.

Kissel questioned the pole color. Mr. Ferris replied that it is galvanized. It blends in with about everything.

Mr. Ferris stated there were about 16 people at the neighborhood meeting, about 5 were really opposed. They were concerned about the kids getting into the area. Another issue was the fence. This will be a 6 foot masonry fence.

Ken Weber appeared. He is also a consultant for Cricket. The FCC regulations were addressed at the meeting. This was the preferred location by the Principal

of the school and Mr. Henning from LPS.

Mr. Zimmer explained that this is a joint park/school area surrounded by residential. To the northeast is Regent Heights. Kahoa is a big school right now. Mr. Ferris believes it is about 330 feet to the closest residential. Along Leighton Ave. is a power pole about every 30 feet.

Mr. Ferris stated that they looked at a church steeple in the area. The church did not want a wireless tower. They also looked at a power substation in the area. It was not in an area that would give them sufficient coverage. Mr. Weber noted that they also looked at a park in the area. The coverage area was not good for them.

Scheer wondered how the owner felt about this tower. Mr. Zimmer replied that LPS has Planning look at the site and review it. With advice from Urban Design, it then goes on to the school board for their public hearing and vote.

Scheer noted that there will never be a tower that deserves merit on urban design criteria. It will never happen. Applicants do what they think is right in terms of screening. The main thing for him on all of these towers, since it is impossible to fully screen them, is to have the best tower possible. If they are near sheds or high points, it would be nice to know that. We need to be cognizant of the bigger picture, and he is not sure how that can be done. Mr. Weber stated that is why they do photo simulations. 84th and Adams is the high point of the area.

Scheer stated that the downtown view and the capitol view is very important, but there is more to it than that. He knows there is a community desire for cell phones. September 11 made the desire even stronger. He will never feel good about these.

Kissel agrees that these are hard, especially in an area that they are not familiar with. Mr. Zimmer believes he could do some key point slides to give an idea of topography and height in the area. Some of the analysis is inherent in city codes. While this is not a zoning matter, we apply those same standards in the analysis for the Committee.

Scheer doesn't mean to be critical, he is just stating his view on all cell towers. Mr. Weber agreed that they probably could have done a better job with representing this and all of the large power lines in the area. Mr. Ferris understands. This is good information for him to have. It helps them to consider in the future what is the least intrusive for a neighborhood. They did a sightline and this pole will be 20' lower than Leighton Ave. They tried to be sensitive to the neighborhood, as well.

Scheer appreciates the masonry wall as opposed to a wood fence.

Eckert recalled a 175' tower in an area of town. It is apparent from all vistas. He wondered about flush mounted antenna and questioned if it is a product of new technology. Mr. Weber replied that this tower is in a residential area so it isn't a high density service area. It is a question of what is available today and what area you are trying to serve. An array will reach a much larger area.

Scheer appreciates the fact that the applicant looked at other areas and met with the neighborhood. If there is a desire to have this kind of service in the community, it is appropriate to go through the steps and Committees.

Review of use of right-of-way at 4736 Prescott Ave (upon request of Public Works Dept.). Dennis Scheer thinks it would be nice to have more information on the outdoor seating. Kissel and Scheer concurred that the ramp is not ready to review.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.